

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 806

By Shepard

A RESOLUTION to name a segment of State Route 49 in Dickson County in honor of the late Sergeant Kenneth W. Harris, Jr., United States Army Reserve.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States armed forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Sergeant Kenneth W. Harris, Jr., United States Army Reserve, who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, while serving on active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, SGT Harris was fatally injured in a traffic accident near Diwaniya, Iraq, on August 20, 2003 when his supply convoy came under small arms fire; and

WHEREAS, SGT Harris followed the patriotic tradition for which Dickson County and the Volunteer State are renowned by serving with distinction in the 212th Transportation Company, 81st Regional Command, United States Army Reserve, while a student at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, born June 5, 1980 and raised in the Charlotte community of Dickson County, SGT Harris was called to active duty and deployed to Kuwait in February 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and he performed each of his many responsibilities with extraordinary dedication and diligence; and

WHEREAS, a five-year veteran of the United States Army Reserve, SGT Harris had been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon, and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, SGT Harris did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and to secure freedom and self-determination for the Iraqi people; and

WHEREAS, the first soldier from the 81st Regional Readiness Command Battalion to be killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom, SGT Kenneth W. Harris left behind his mother, Marie A. Harris-Steinmetz, his twin brother, Nathan D. Harris, his sister, Jennifer L. Alberd, and a tremendous void in his community; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Kenneth W. Harris, Jr., served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Army Reserve, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, SGT Harris's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, the Dickson County Legislative Body has petitioned this General Assembly to name a segment of State Route 49 in SGT Harris's native Charlotte community to honor the memory of this valiant soldier; and

WHEREAS, this Body concurs with this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the segment of State Route 49 in Dickson County from such route's intersection with St. Paul Road northeasterly to its intersection with Timber Ridge Road is hereby designated the "SGT Kenneth W. Harris, Jr. Memorial Highway" in recognition of the life of valor and death in combat of Sergeant Kenneth W. Harris, Jr., United States Army Reserve, one of Tennessee's most heroic citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the segment of State Route 49 described in Section 1 as the "SGT Kenneth W. Harris, Jr. Memorial Highway". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appellation "SGT Kenneth W. Harris, Jr. Memorial Highway" provided for in this resolution is for honorary purposes only and nothing contained herein shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any address, or the governmental system for assigning addresses, in any county, municipality, or other governmental entity affected by this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.